

April 12, 1935, issue of the *Senate Daily Journal* of the California Legislature, to note how little appreciation was expressed to either the California Medical Association or its Committee of Five, in contrast to that so loud-voiced for the labors of the then Senate Interim Committee.

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Glaring Error of Assemblyman Dewey Anderson.—And if that be not enough, read and reflect on the following paragraphs of the resolution offered on May 18, 1935, by Assemblyman H. Dewey Anderson of Santa Clara County, creating an Assembly Interim Committee and printed in full on page 472 of the June issue of CALIFORNIA and WESTERN MEDICINE:

"WHEREAS, The development of more adequate health services at rates within reasonable reach of self-supporting individuals and families of small and moderate incomes is essential to promote the comfort, health, safety, economic security and general welfare of the people of the state of California; and

"WHEREAS, The committee appointed by the Senate April 19, 1933, composed of Senators Williams, Tickle, Difani, and its coördinator secretary, Celestine J. Sullivan, LL.D., have performed a distinguished public service by devoting two years of disinterested and arduous work, at their own expense,* to the study of health insurance and the investigation of the high cost of sickness and the preparation of a very valuable report, published in the *Senate Daily Journal*, April 12, 1935. . . ."

We have been told that Assemblyman Anderson was a former faculty member of Stanford University, and that he is even the possessor of a doctorate degree. His own personal and official citation of his life work, as given in the *Assembly Daily Journal*, is that of a "sociologist and an educator." We know, further, that he has asserted a deep interest in sickness insurance legislation by his introduction of Assembly Bill No. 1097. Yet, in spite of his academic background, which should have made for accuracy in the collection of facts and their proper expression, the doctoral gentleman, in the resolution offered for an Assembly Interim Committee, writes in loosest terms of the source of funds by means of which the California surveys of 1934 and 1935 were really made. This license, neither even poetic nor academic, in a matter of such importance may well lead members of the California Medical Association to ask themselves what further funds of the Association's reserve resources, so slowly gathered during its more than seventy-five years of fruitful existence, should be spent to puff lay citizens into seeming greatness, while the real donors, the toilers of the medical profession, remain unhonored and unsung.

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In This, as in Other Things, Truth Should Be Told.—We trust these comments will not be misunderstood. We do not believe that members of the California Medical Association are peeved, but we do think they have sufficient love and respect for factual data to wish the simple truth to be spoken; and that they have enough pride in the part their Association has taken in these

recent studies to believe that its members, and none other, should receive credit for what has been done. And this pride and this wish are more than justifiable when one considers that this survey of sickness incidence in California has been carried out at a time when the treasury of the State of California was so depleted that it could not supply any funds for the work.

IMPORTANCE OF ANNUAL SESSION MINUTES OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES AND COUNCIL

Stenographic Reports of Annual Session Minutes are Printed in This Issue.—In the current issue, on pages 53, 55 and 91, are printed the minutes of the House of Delegates and Council meetings held during the recent annual session at Yosemite National Park. For the first time, through utilization of special stenographic service, it is possible for the official JOURNAL to print, word by word, the proceedings and discussions which took place when the House, as the supreme legislative body, was considering the business of the Association. It is possible, therefore, for members who were not in attendance at Yosemite to visualize what was done, and through perusal of the minutes to know what proposals were made and what policies were adopted.

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Why Minutes Are Worthy of Perusal.—Organized medicine in the Golden State would be greatly aided if practically all members of the California Medical Association would take the time to at least hastily scan the official minutes. For the members of the House of Delegates and the officers of the Association can best carry out the wishes of the membership, when the members not only realize what are the problems which face the Association, but indicate, to their representatives in the House and Council, their own opinions and the reactions thereon.

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Every Physician Is Obligated to Support Organized Medicine.—No present-day practitioner of medicine, no matter what his scientific attainments or ambitions may be, has the right to absolve himself from the responsibilities he owes to his profession, through non-support of efforts designed to protect those basic elements of medical practice upon which his own welfare and that of his fellows equally depend. Indeed, this obligation, to stand shoulder to shoulder with those other physicians who have aligned themselves for service in the ranks of organized medicine, becomes the greater in proportion as an individual physician has attained more than average success. It should be distinctly understood by all, that organized medicine is not political medicine, even though those who bear most of its burdens usually have a good understanding of political values in civil life. It is well to remember that organized medicine is that expression of healing-art practice by means of which scientific medicine

* Italics our own.—Editor.

is better able to attain its ends; and on that account those who actually or supposedly have dedicated themselves to special scientific advancement should appreciate that they also must be interested in organized medicine in common with all other fellow physicians who likewise practice scientific medicine; but who, in addition, feel the urge and do their parts when called on to support organized medicine in what it hopes to accomplish. Scientific and organized medicine are part and parcel of one whole, each a complement to the other, each necessary to the other, and both essential, if the highest types of scientific advancement and healing-art service are to be realized and made possible for fellow citizens.

AMBASSADOR EDGE'S PLACEMENT OF MEDICAL PRACTICE IN THE "SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM"

Address of Former Ambassador Edge at Atlantic City.—At the joint meeting of the American and Canadian Medical Associations held at Atlantic City on May 11 last, the Hon. Walter Evans Edge of New Jersey, former United States Ambassador to France, was one of the speakers; addressing the assembly, according to the *Atlantic City Press*, as follows:

"Another speaker, Walter E. Edge, former Ambassador to France, told the physicians that world problems would have long ago been solved had the achievements of statesmen measured up to those of the medical profession.

"After briefly alluding to the New Deal program, Mr. Edge continued: 'If one makes even a cursory examination of the pending so-called "Social Security Program," you will note suggestions of state or national control in many of its provisions. When one considers the responsibility of the health of the nation, certainly that should be one activity that the politicians should let alone. These new ideas of state medical practitioners to take the place of the independent doctor appeal to me not at all.'

"After reviewing some of the achievements of the medical profession, he said: 'The voluntary service of the medical profession, of course, has no parallel in and will never receive the real appreciation it richly deserves. If statesmen could cure a few of the ills of the body politic in even slight comparison to the scientific advances you have brought about in physical cures, the world long ago would have solved many of the problems which affect us today.'

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Ambassador Edge's Advice Is Commended to the Consideration of Certain Lay Propagandists.—The above thoughts, coming from an American statesman of such prominence, are respectfully called to the attention of those lay persons, both in civil and political life, who may find themselves possessed by an urge to solve, through statutory enactments as yet untried in America, some of the economic and sickness problems related to certain social welfare needs.

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The Medical Profession Has Always Cared for the Poor.—When one stops to consider that from one end of the United States to the other, physicians have at all times met their altruistic obligations to their lay fellows in far greater

amount and proportion than can be claimed for any other profession or vocation; and that, in these days of economic stress and strain, in spite of their own financial hardships, they are continuing to give most generous service to the poor, it cannot be construed as unreasonable or improper conduct when the members of the profession scan closely the past careers and motivating forces and ambitions of some of the lay individuals who presume to have special knowledge in medical relief work, and who have taken it upon themselves to outline the paths along which the many thousands of licensed physicians should carry on medical practice in the future.

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The Experience of Physicians as Against the Theories of Propagandists.—The members of the medical profession do not claim that their viewpoints on sickness relief are infallible; but by and large, they do believe, and with right—because of close-up, first-hand and more accurate and comprehensive understanding of the subject—that, other things being equal, the conjoint opinion of physicians should have as great and more merit than that of a handful of lay theorists and propagandists who, self-constituted in their imaginary leadership, are quite insistent that the plans they outline should be followed by medical men.

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The Lay Propagandists May Now Turn Their Forces on Legislatures.—The pressure to which, in recent years, the medical profession has been subjected by some of these lay propagandists and publications (now that they have found that the medical profession cannot be easily moved to approve illy-matured plans or laws on sickness relief for low-bracket income groups of our population) will probably, in the days to come, be exerted with even greater force upon members of our legislatures, in the hope of securing certain legal enactments under the guise of sorely needed medical relief, even though the medical profession is opposed to the methods therewith submitted.

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The Exaggeration of Sickness Hardships.—It is well to keep in mind that there has been much exaggeration in the portrayal of isolated cases of unhappy social and economic conditions associated with unforeseen sickness; such special instances being used only too often to lay down premises from which general conclusions may be drawn that would favor the institution of the social and sickness relief procedures advocated by such proponents.

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Time Has Arrived for Some Clear Thinking. Is it not time that clear thinking and plain talking should again become the order of the day? The handicaps arising from unexpected illness no one will deny, but it is well to remember that in many, if not most of such cases, the resultant hardships are not directly due to such illness but, rather, are dependent on underlying conditions